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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

Puente, an Arizona nonprofit corporation;
Poder in Action, an Arizona nonprofit
corporation; Ira Yedlin; Janet Travis;
Cynthia Guillen; Jacinta Gonzalez
Goodman, individually and as class
representatives,

Plaintiffs,

v.

City of Phoenix, a municipal corporation;
Jeri L. Williams; Benjamin Moore;
Douglas McBride; Robert Scott;
Christopher Turiano; Glenn Neville; John
Sticca; Lane White; Jeffrey Howell;
George Herr, individually and in their
official capacities; and Does 1-20,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:18-cv-02778-JJT

**DEFENDANTS’ ANSWER TO
PLAINTIFFS’ COMPLAINT
AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

1 Defendants City of Phoenix, Chief Jeri L. Williams, Lt. Benjamin Moore, Sgt.
 2 Douglas McBride, Officer Robert Scott, Officer Christopher Turiano, Officer Glenn
 3 Neville, Officer John Sticca, Officer Lane White, Officer Jeffrey Howell, and Officer
 4 George Herr (individually and in their official capacities) (collectively referred to as
 5 "Defendants"), by and through undersigned counsel, hereby submit their Answer in
 6 response to Plaintiffs' Complaint filed on or about September 4, 2018 [Doc. 1], and admit,
 7 deny, and allege, as follows:

8 **INTRODUCTION**

9 1. Answering paragraph 1, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.
 10 2. Answering paragraph 2, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.
 11 3. Answering paragraph 3, admit that Plaintiffs purport to seek injunctive relief
 12 and damages but deny that they are entitled to either and deny the remaining allegations of
 13 paragraph 3.

14 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

15 4. Answering paragraph 4, Defendants admit that this Court has jurisdiction as
 16 to some of the claims asserted. Defendants deny that Plaintiffs have standing for
 17 declaratory and injunctive relief and deny that Plaintiffs are entitled to the relief they seek.
 18 5. Answering paragraph 5, Defendants admit that this Court has personal
 19 jurisdiction over the Defendants and that venue is proper.
 20 6. Answering paragraph 6, Defendants admit that this Court has jurisdiction
 21 and that venue is proper. Defendants deny any acts or omissions violative of Plaintiffs'
 22 constitutional rights or federal law.

23 **PARTIES**

24 7. Answering paragraph 7, Defendants deny the following allegations: that
 25 members and supporters of Puente have been chilled from participating in political
 26 expressive activities by the Phoenix Police Department's ["PPD"] improper, excessive, and
 27 unconstitutional uses of force, that Defendants' actions stopped Puente's message from
 28 reaching its intended audience, that PPD's actions on August 22, 2017, were unlawful, and

1 that Puente's members were violently denied their right to speech and association by the
2 PPD. As to the remaining allegations set forth in paragraph 7, Defendants lack knowledge
3 or information sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

4 8. Answering paragraph 8, Defendants deny the following allegations: that the
5 PPD's use of force was unlawful, improper, excessive, and unconstitutional, and that
6 Defendants' actions stopped Poder's message from reaching its intended audience. As to
7 the remaining allegations set forth in paragraph 8, Defendants lack knowledge or
8 information sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

9 9. Answering paragraph 9, Defendants lack knowledge or information
10 sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

11 10. Answering paragraph 10, Defendants lack knowledge or information
12 sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

13 11. Answering paragraph 11, Defendants lack knowledge or information
14 sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

15 12. Answering paragraph 12, Defendants lack knowledge or information
16 sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

17 13. Answering paragraph 13, Defendants admit only that the City of Phoenix is a
18 municipal corporation, organized and existing under the laws of the State of Arizona, and
19 that the PPD is an agency of the City of Phoenix. Defendants deny the remaining
20 allegations set forth therein.

21 14. Answering paragraph 14, Defendants admit only that Defendant Jeri L.
22 Williams is the Chief of Police ("Chief Williams") for the City of Phoenix. Defendants
23 deny that Chief Williams failed to establish sufficient guidelines and regulations governing
24 the PPD in the situation presented on August 22, 2017, did not ensure adequate training
25 before the event, did not properly supervise and monitor the actions of PPD personnel
26 during the protest, and ratified the actions of PPD. Chief Williams specifically denies that
27 she violated any of Plaintiffs' constitutional rights or rights existing under federal law. As
28 to the remaining allegations set forth in paragraph 14, Defendants lack knowledge or

1 information sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

2 15. Answering paragraph 15, Defendants admit that Defendant Benjamin Moore
3 is a Lieutenant with the PPD ("Lt. Moore") and, on August 22, 2017, was the Field Force
4 Commander. Defendants deny that the orders Lt. Moore gave for PPD officers to use
5 force were improper, resulted in indiscriminate attacks against hundreds of peaceable
6 protestors, and were without warnings and before any unlawful assembly had been
7 declared. Defendant Lt. Moore specifically denies that he violated any of Plaintiffs'
8 constitutional rights or rights existing under federal law. As to the remaining allegations
9 set forth in paragraph 15, Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to form a
10 belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

11 16. Answering paragraph 16, Defendants admit that Defendant Douglas
12 McBride is a Sergeant with the PPD ("Sgt. McBride") and, on August 22, 2017, Sgt.
13 McBride was assigned as the Grenadier Team Leader. Further, Defendants admit that
14 according to PPD, grenadiers are "specially trained officers on deployment of chemical
15 munitions." Defendant Sgt. McBride specifically denies that he violated any of Plaintiffs'
16 constitutional rights or rights existing under federal law. As to the remaining allegations
17 set forth in paragraph 16, Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to form a
18 belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

19 17. Answering paragraph 17, Defendants admit that Defendant Robert Scott is
20 an officer with the PPD ("Officer Scott") and was assigned to the PPD's Tactical Response
21 Unit as one of the Grenadiers; and deny that Officer Scott indiscriminately fired on and
22 injured Plaintiffs without warning. Defendant Officer Scott specifically denies that he
23 violated any of Plaintiffs' constitutional rights or rights existing under federal law.

24 18. Answering paragraph 18, Defendants admit that Defendant Christopher
25 Turiano is an officer with the PPD ("Officer Turiano") and, on August 22, 2017, Officer
26 Turiano was assigned to the PPD's Tactical Response Unit as one of the Grenadiers.
27 Defendants deny that Officer Turiano indiscriminately shot and injured Plaintiffs without
28 warning. Defendant Officer Turiano specifically denies that he violated any of Plaintiffs'

1 constitutional rights or rights existing under federal law.

2 19. Answering paragraph 19, Defendants admit that Defendant Glenn Neville is
3 an officer with the PPD ("Officer Neville") and, on August 22, 2017, Officer Neville was
4 assigned to the PPD's Tactical Response Unit as one of the Grenadiers. Defendants deny
5 that Officer Neville indiscriminately shot and injured Plaintiffs without warning.
6 Defendant Glenn Neville specifically denies that he violated any of Plaintiffs'
7 constitutional rights or rights existing under federal law.

8 20. Answering paragraph 20, Defendants admit that Defendant John Sticca is an
9 officer with the PPD ("Officer Sticca") and, on August 22, 2017, Officer Sticca was
10 assigned to the PPD's Tactical Response Unit as one of the Grenadiers. Defendants deny
11 that Officer Sticca indiscriminately shot and injured Plaintiffs without warning. Defendant
12 Officer Sticca specifically denies that he violated any of Plaintiffs' constitutional rights or
13 rights existing under federal law.

14 21. Answering paragraph 21, Defendants admit that Defendant Lane White is an
15 officer with the PPD ("Officer White") and, on August 22, 2017, Officer White was
16 assigned to the PPD's Tactical Response Unit as one of the Grenadiers. Defendants deny
17 that Officer White indiscriminately shot and injured Plaintiffs without warning. Defendant
18 Officer White specifically denies that he violated any of Plaintiffs' constitutional rights or
19 rights existing under federal law.

20 22. Answering paragraph 22, Defendants admit that Defendant Jeffrey Howell is
21 an officer with the PPD ("Officer Howell") and, on August 22, 2017, Officer Howell was
22 assigned to the PPD's Tactical Response Unit as one of the Grenadiers. Defendants deny
23 that Officer Howell indiscriminately shot and injured Plaintiffs without warning.
24 Defendant Officer Howell specifically denies that he violated any of Plaintiffs'
25 constitutional rights or rights existing under federal law.

26 23. Answering paragraph 23, Defendants admit that Defendant George Herr is
27 an officer with the PPD ("Officer Herr") and, on August 22, 2017, Officer Herr was
28 assigned to the PPD's Tactical Response Unit as one of the Grenadiers. Defendants deny

1 that Officer Herr indiscriminately shot and injured Plaintiffs without warning. Defendant
 2 Officer Herr specifically denies that he violated any of Plaintiffs' constitutional rights or
 3 rights existing under federal law.

4 24. To the extent that the allegations set forth in paragraph 24 are directed at
 5 defendants other than these Answering Defendants, no answer is required and none is
 6 given. To the extent that the allegations are directed to these Answering Defendants, the
 7 allegations are denied.¹

8 25. Answering paragraph 25, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

9 26. Answering paragraph 26, Defendants admit only that at the time of the
 10 events alleged in Plaintiffs' Complaint, Defendants acted within the course and scope of
 11 their employment with the City of Phoenix. Defendants deny that they, any of them, acted
 12 in a manner that was unconstitutional, unlawful, improper or unreasonable.

13 27. Answering paragraph 27, Defendants lack knowledge or information
 14 sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

17 **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

18 28. Answering paragraph 28, Defendants lack knowledge or information
 19 sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

20 29. Answering paragraph 29, Defendants admit that, on August 16, 2017,
 21 President Trump's campaign announced that the President would visit Phoenix on August
 22 22, 2017. As to the remaining allegations set forth in paragraph 29, Defendants lack
 23 knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore,
 24 deny same.

25 30. Answering paragraph 30, Defendants admit that plaintiff Puente was in

26 _____
 27 ¹ Plaintiffs have listed "Doe" Defendants. The naming of fictitious defendants in a
 28 Complaint is improper; the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure do not provide for fictitious
 defendants. The "Doe" Defendants should be dismissed.

1 communication with PPD liaisons in the week prior to and up to the event on August 22,
2 2017. As to the remaining allegations set forth in paragraph 30, Defendants lack
3 knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore,
4 deny same.

5 31. Answering paragraph 31, Defendants admit that plaintiff Puente was in
6 communication with PPD liaisons in the week prior to and up to the event on August 22,
7 2017. As to the remaining allegations set forth in paragraph 31, Defendants lack
8 knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore,
9 deny same.

10 32. Answering paragraph 32, Defendants lack knowledge or information
11 sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

12 33. Answering paragraph 33, Defendants lack knowledge or information
13 sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

14 34. Answering paragraph 34, Defendants admit only that PPD officers, including
15 grenadiers, were equipped with pepper balls, smoke canisters, CS canisters, and stun bag
16 shotguns. Defendants deny that all protesters remained peaceful throughout the day. As to
17 the remaining allegations set forth in paragraph 34, Defendants lack knowledge or
18 information sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

19 35. Answering paragraph 35, Defendants admit only that PPD along with several
20 other federal, state, county, and local law enforcement agencies coordinated all safety
21 activities associated with the August 22, 2017 event. As to the remaining allegations set
22 forth in paragraph 35, Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to form a
23 belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

24 36. Answering paragraph 36, Defendants admit only that PPD along with several
25 other federal, state, county, and local law enforcement agencies coordinated all safety
26 activities associated with the August 22, 2017 event. Defendants deny that PPD made the
27 decision to use the incapacitating weaponry indiscriminately against hundreds of peaceably
28 assembled “protestors without warning”. As to the remaining allegations set forth in

1 paragraph 36, Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to
2 those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

3 37. Answering paragraph 37, Defendants admit that President Trump arrived at
4 the Convention Center on August 22, 2017 at approximately 6:32 p.m.

5 38. Answering paragraph 38, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.
6 Defendants affirmatively assert that, at approximately 7:00 p.m., PPD officers observed
7 water bottles being thrown at event attendees from the overflow area southbound across
8 Monroe Street and that, at approximately 7:03 p.m., water bottles were being thrown at
9 PPD officers from the crowd at 2nd Street and Monroe Street. Defendants further assert
10 that PPD officers were deployed along the south side of Monroe Street along the exit route
11 to position themselves between the two opposing groups. As to the remaining allegations
12 set forth in paragraph 38, Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to form a
13 belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

14 39. Answering paragraph 39, Defendants deny that there was no provocation or
15 dangerous acts by “protesters warranting an increased police presence”. Defendants
16 affirmatively allege that between approximately 7:00 p.m. and 7:03 p.m. PPD officers
17 observed water bottles and other items being thrown from the crowd toward event
18 attendees and at police officers. Defendants further assert that additional PPD units arrived
19 in response to reports of items being thrown toward event attendees and PPD officers. As
20 to the remaining allegations set forth in paragraph 39, Defendants lack knowledge or
21 information sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

22 40. Answering paragraph 40, Defendants deny that there was no precipitating
23 conduct by protesters that preceded officers’ movements in unison in a northern direction.
24 Defendants affirmatively allege that between approximately 7:00 p.m. and 7:03 p.m. PPD
25 officers observed water bottles and other items being thrown from the crowd toward event
26 attendees and at police officers. Defendants further assert that additional PPD units arrived
27 in response to reports of items being thrown toward event attendees and PPD officers. At
28 approximately 7:15 p.m., PPD officers made announcements to the crowd on Monroe

1 Street between 2nd Street and 3rd Street not to throw objects. At approximately 7:20 p.m.,
2 the PPD utilized its Long Range Acoustic Device or LRAD (a high-volume
3 communication system designed to give clear instructions to large crowds in amplified
4 noise conditions), instructing community members and groups to demonstrate peacefully,
5 not to cross the fence and police lines, and not to throw objects. Two PPD officers issued
6 these warnings on Monroe Street between 1st Street and 5th Street. As to the remaining
7 allegations set forth in paragraph 40, Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient
8 to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

9 41. Answering paragraph 41, Defendants lack knowledge or information
10 sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same. Defendants
11 affirmatively assert that at approximately 8:15 p.m., water bottles were being thrown down
12 from the parking garage located at 2nd Street and Monroe Street, toward officers, that
13 additional PPD officers were dispatched to the garage, and the garage was secured to
14 prevent any further incidents.

15 42. Answering paragraph 42, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

16 43. Answering paragraph 43, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

17 44. Answering paragraph 44, Defendants admit only that, at approximately 8:30
18 p.m., President Trump and other federal officials began exiting the Convention Center. As
19 to the remaining allegation set forth in paragraph 44, Defendants lack knowledge or
20 information sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

21 45. Answering paragraph 45, Defendants admit only that, at approximately 8:32
22 p.m., pepper balls were deployed by PPD officers, as there was an attempt by individuals
23 to use the wood support of signs to topple a section of the pedestrian fence. Defendants
24 deny the remaining allegations set forth in paragraph 45.

25 46. Answering paragraph 46, Defendants lack knowledge or information
26 sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

27 47. Answering paragraph 47, Defendants admit only that at approximately 8:33
28 p.m., PPD officers deployed pepper balls toward the ground near the pedestrian fence in an

1 effort to prevent a barrier breach and to maintain public safety. Further Defendants assert
 2 that, at approximately 8:34 p.m., Lt. Moore gave an order to stop the deployment of pepper
 3 balls as the crowd behind the pedestrian fence had moved approximately 15 to 20 feet
 4 away from the fence. Defendants deny the remaining allegations set forth in paragraph 47.

5 48. Answering paragraph 48, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.
 6 Defendants affirmatively assert that, at approximately 8:34 p.m., a small gas grenade was
 7 thrown at PPD officers from the crowd and an unknown gas, later identified as tear gas,
 8 began exhausting from the grenade. Defendants affirmatively allege that several PPD
 9 officers were affected by the gas and were treated through an on-site decontamination
 10 process.

11 49. Answering paragraph 49, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.
 12 Defendants allege that, at approximately 8:34 p.m., PPD officers donned gas masks and
 13 that, at approximately 8:35 p.m., PPD officers deployed smoke grenades to the area along
 14 Monroe Street where individuals were attempting to breach the pedestrian fence.
 15 Defendants affirmatively allege that these individuals reached over and through the
 16 pedestrian fence, and began kicking and throwing police deployed smoke munitions from
 17 Monroe Street back at PPD officers. Defendants allege that from approximately 8:34 p.m.
 18 through 9:31 p.m., the crowd continued to throw and/or kick items at PPD officers,
 19 including munitions deployed by the PPD.

20 50. Answering paragraph 50, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.
 21 Defendants allege that at approximately 8:36 p.m., another type of pyrotechnical munition
 22 was thrown at PPD officers from the crowd and, in response, PPD officers were ordered to
 23 deploy CS canisters in the same location and use pepper balls to drive back aggressive
 24 protesters.

25 51. Answering paragraph 51, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

26 52. Answering paragraph 52, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

27 53. Answering paragraph 53, Defendants deny the allegation set forth therein.

28 54. Answering paragraph 54, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

1 55. Answering paragraph 55, Defendants lack knowledge or information
2 sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

3 56. Answering paragraph 56, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.
4 Defendants allege that, at approximately 8:34 p.m., an Air Unit was requested to illuminate
5 the area and make announcements; that, at approximately 8:40 p.m., an Air Unit arrived in
6 the downtown area; that, at approximately 8:47 p.m., the Air Unit was requested to make
7 announcements; and that, from approximately 8:52 p.m. through 9:10 p.m., the Air Unit
8 was used to make repeated announcements to disperse and to leave the area. Defendants
9 further allege that, at approximately 8:52 p.m. the crowd was determined to be unlawfully
10 assembled, and the official unlawful assembly announcement was broadcasted via a police
11 public address system from a marked Patrol Chevrolet Tahoe.

12 57. Answering paragraph 57, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.
13 Defendants allege that, at approximately 8:52 p.m., two police lines were formed, one
14 facing east and one facing west, and extended from 2nd Street to just north of Monroe
15 Street. Defendants further allege that, at approximately 8:56 p.m., the police line began
16 marching slowly northward toward Van Buren Street to confront remaining aggressive
17 protesters, and PPD officers deployed OC, pepper balls and tactics to disperse the crowd.

18 58. Answering paragraph 58, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

19 59. Answering paragraph 59, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

20 60. Answering paragraph 60, Defendants admit that pepper balls were deployed
21 by PPD officer grenadiers toward “anyone who aggressively approach[e]d the police
22 line....” As for the remaining allegations set forth in paragraph 60, Defendants lack
23 knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore,
24 deny same.

25 61. Answering paragraph 61, Defendants admit only that in a letter to Chief
26 Williams dated August 28, 2017, the City Manager acknowledged that the vast majority of
27 participants on August 22 in both the campaign rally and the protests outside “were
28 peaceful, prepared and civil.” Defendants deny the remaining allegations set forth therein.

1 62. Answering paragraph 62, Defendants admit only as follows: (a) Officer Scott
2 was a PPD grenadier, (b) Officer Turiano was among the PPD grenadiers working at the
3 rally and protest, (c) Officer Neville was a PPD grenadier on detail to the rally and protest,
4 (d) Officer Sticca was assigned as one of the PPD grenadiers, (e) Officer White was
5 another one of the PPD grenadiers, (f) Officer Howell was a PPD grenadier, and (g)
6 Officer Herr is a PPD grenadier. Defendants deny the remaining allegations set forth in
7 paragraph 62.

8 63. Answering paragraph 63, Defendants admit that there were approximately
9 882 police officers utilized during the August 22, 2017 event. Defendants deny the
10 remaining allegations set forth therein.

11 64. Answering paragraph 64, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

12 65. Answering paragraph 65, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

13 66. Answering paragraph 66, Defendants admit one or more representatives of
14 Puente had communicated with the PPD prior to the August 22, 2017 event. As for the
15 remaining allegations set forth in paragraph 66, Defendants lack knowledge or information
16 sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

17 67. Answering paragraph 67, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

18 68. Answering paragraph 68, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

19 69. Answering paragraph 69, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

20 70. Answering paragraph 70, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

21 71. Answering paragraph 71, Defendants incorporate herein and reassert all prior
22 admissions, denials and factual assertions set forth herein.

23 72. Answering paragraph 72, Defendants lack knowledge or information
24 sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

25 73. Answering paragraph 73, Defendants admit that individuals assembled at the
26 August 22, 2017 event with other individuals but were kept separate from others in order
27 to prevent violence while allowing for the opportunity to exercise free movement and the
28 right to free speech. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief

1 as to the remaining allegations set forth therein and, therefore, deny same.

2 74. Answering paragraph 74, Defendants lack knowledge or information
3 sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

4 75. Answering paragraph 75, Defendants admit that, at approximately 5:30 p.m.,
5 the doors to the Convention Center were closed due to the facility having reached capacity
6 and due to safety concerns; at that time, about 11,000 individuals ended up inside the
7 Convention Center while another approximate 4,500 individuals in line to enter the
8 Convention Center were required to remain outside. As for the remaining allegations set
9 forth in paragraph 75, Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to form a
10 belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

11 76. Answering paragraph 76, Defendants admit only that there were
12 approximately 6,000 individuals gathered outside the Convention Center. Defendants lack
13 knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the remaining allegations set
14 forth therein and, therefore, deny same.

15 77. Answering paragraph 77, Defendants lack knowledge or information
16 sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

17 78. Answering paragraph 78, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

18 79. Answering paragraph 79 (as it first appears in Plaintiffs' Complaint),
19 Defendants incorporate herein and reassert all prior admissions, denials and factual
20 assertions set forth herein.

21 80. Answering paragraph 80 (as it first appears in Plaintiffs' Complaint),
22 Defendants admit only that PPD's "Dignitary Protection Branch of Operations" in
23 cooperation with "federal...law enforcement agencies" planned for and orchestrated the
24 movements of the high-level officials participating in the event inside of the Convention
25 Center and that some PPD officers came to the event in full riot gear armed with
26 reasonable, non-deadly weaponry. The remaining allegations are denied.

27 81. Answering paragraph numbered 79 (as it appears for the second time in
28 Plaintiffs' Complaint), Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to form a

1 belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

2 82. Answering paragraph numbered 80 (as it appears for the second time in
3 Plaintiffs' Complaint), Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

4 83. Answering paragraph 81, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

5 84. Answering paragraph 82, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

6 85. Answering paragraph 83, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

7 86. Answering paragraph 84, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

8 87. Answering paragraph 85, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

9 **MUNICIPAL LIABILITY**

10 88. Answering paragraph 86, Defendants incorporate herein and reassert all prior
11 admissions, denials and factual assertions set forth herein.

12 89. Answering paragraph 87, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

13 90. Answering paragraph 88, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

14 91. Answering paragraph 89, Defendants admit only that Defendant Chief
15 Williams made the statements attributed to her in a press conference on August 22, 2017.
16 The remaining allegations are denied.

17 92. Answering paragraph 90, Defendants admit only that then-Mayor Stanton
18 stood by Chief Williams at the August 22, 2017 press conference. The remaining
19 allegations are denied.

20 93. Answering paragraph 91, Defendants admit the allegations set forth therein.

21 94. Answering paragraph 92, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

22 95. Answering paragraph 93, Defendants incorporate herein and reassert all prior
23 admissions, denials and factual assertions set forth herein.

24 96. Answering paragraph 94, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

25 97. Answering paragraph 95, Defendants admit that the statements attributed to
26 Defendant Chief Williams and referred to therein were contained in a report that followed
27 the August 22, 2017 event. The remaining allegations are denied.

28

98. Answering paragraph 96, Defendants admit that the statements attributed to Defendant Chief Williams and the City of Phoenix were stated following the August 22, 2017 incident.

99. Answering paragraph 97, Defendants admit the allegations set forth therein.

100. Answering paragraph 98, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

101. Answering paragraph 99, Defendants incorporate herein and reassert all prior admissions, denials and factual assertions set forth herein.

102. Answering paragraph 100, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

103. Answering paragraph 101, Defendants admit that the PPD's policy regarding the use of bean bag munition contains statements as alleged therein.

104. Answering paragraph 102, Defendants admit the PPD policy on using pepper spray contains statements as alleged therein.

105. Answering paragraph 103, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

106. Answering paragraph 104, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

107. Answering paragraph 105, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

108. Answering paragraph 106, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

109. Answering paragraph 107, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

110. Answering paragraph 108, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

111. Answering paragraph 109, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

112. Answering paragraph 110, Defendants deny that the proposed class and subclass definitions are appropriate and that any class should be certified.

113. Answering paragraph 111, Defendants deny that the proposed class and subclass definitions are appropriate and that any class should be certified.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

114. Answering paragraph 112, Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

115. Answering paragraph 113, Defendants deny the allegations deny the allegations set forth therein.

116. Answering paragraph 114, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

117. Answering paragraph 115, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

118. Answering paragraph 116, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

119. Answering paragraph 117, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

120. Answering paragraph 118, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

121. Answering paragraph 119, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

122. Answering paragraph 120, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

123. Answering paragraph 121, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

124. Answering paragraph 122, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

125. Answering paragraph 123, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

126. Answering paragraph 124, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

127. Answering paragraph 125, Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

128. Answering paragraph 126, deny that class certification is appropriate and that the proposed methods for notice described are appropriate

129. Answering paragraph 127, Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to those allegations and, therefore, deny same.

130. Answering paragraph 128, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

EXCESSIVE FORCE

(Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments, 42 U.S.C. § 1983)

131. Answering paragraph 129, Defendants incorporate herein and reassert all prior admissions, denials and factual assertions set forth herein.

132. Answering paragraph 130, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

133. Answering paragraph 131, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

134. Answering paragraph 132, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

135. Answering paragraph 133, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ASSOCIATION

(First and Fourteenth Amendments, 42 U.S.C. § 1983)

136. Answering paragraph 134, Defendants incorporate herein and reassert all prior admissions, denials and factual assertions set forth herein.

137. Answering paragraph 135, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

138. Answering paragraph 136, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

139. Answering paragraph 137, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

DUE PROCESS

(Fourteenth Amendments, 42 U.S.C. § 1983)

140. Answering paragraph 138, Defendants incorporate herein and reassert all prior admissions, denials and factual assertions set forth herein.

141. Answering paragraph 139, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

142. Answering paragraph 140, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

143. Answering paragraph 141, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

144. Answering paragraph 142, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

EQUAL PROTECTION

(First and Fourteenth Amendments, 42 U.S.C. § 1983)

145. Answering paragraph 143, Defendants incorporate herein and reassert all prior admissions, denials and factual assertions set forth herein.

146. Answering paragraph 144, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

147. Answering paragraph 145, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

148. Answering paragraph 146, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

149. Answering paragraph 147, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

150. Answering paragraph 148, Defendants deny the allegations set forth therein.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

1. Plaintiffs' Complaint fails to state a claim against Defendants.

2. Neither Defendants' actions nor inactions violated Plaintiffs' constitutional rights or rights existing under federal law.

3. Plaintiffs lack standing to seek injunctive and declaratory relief.

4. The Defendants are entitled to qualified immunity.

5. There can be no vicarious liability on the part of the City of Phoenix.

6. Defendants are not liable pursuant to the doctrine of assumption of the risk, in that at all times mentioned in the complaint, Plaintiffs knew the risks involved in placing themselves in the position which they then assumed, and voluntarily assumed such risk, including, but not limited to, the risk of personal injury.

7. Each Plaintiff's alleged injury, if any, and claimed damages were caused, either in whole or in part, by the acts or omissions of other(s) who is/are not party to this action and, as such, fault should be allocated to each such non-party, reducing *pro rata* any recovery to Plaintiffs.

8. Plaintiffs' claims under the Federal Civil Rights Act are barred because plaintiffs suffered no actual damages and there is no right to recover damages based on the abstract value of constitutional rights.

9. Plaintiffs' claims under the Federal Civil Rights Act against each individual Defendant are barred because each individual Defendant acted in good faith with an honest and reasonable belief that the actions taken were necessary, reasonable and appropriate. All force used by any individual Defendant was objectively reasonable under the totality of the circumstances.

10. Plaintiffs' claims under the Federal Civil Rights Act against each individual Defendant are barred because a reasonable police officer could have believed that the acts and conduct were reasonable, justified and appropriate.

11. Plaintiffs' claims under the Federal Civil Rights Act against each individual Defendant are barred because the conduct did not violate clearly established rights.

1 12. Plaintiffs cannot recover punitive damages against a defendant that is a
2 public entity as a matter of law under the Federal Civil Rights Act.

3 13. Plaintiffs' claims under the Federal Civil Rights Act against the public entity
4 Defendant, and against the individual Defendants in their official capacities, are barred
5 because the alleged violation of civil rights did not occur pursuant to a government policy,
6 practice or custom.

7 14. Plaintiffs' claims under the Federal Civil Rights Act against each individual
8 Defendant are barred because the alleged deprivation of civil rights was not without due
9 process of law.

10 15. Plaintiffs' recovery against each individual Defendant is barred, in whole or
11 in part, because any injury or damage suffered by Plaintiffs was caused solely by the
12 wrongful acts and willful resistance to a peace officer in the discharge of his or her duties
13 by Plaintiffs.

14 16. Plaintiffs' claims under the Federal Civil Rights Act are barred insofar as the
15 individual Defendants are supervisors who can only be liable for their own misconduct and
16 not for that of their subordinates.

17 17. The negligence and/or intentional conduct of a third person or persons was a
18 superseding, intervening cause of Plaintiffs' injuries.

19 18. Plaintiffs have failed to mitigate their damages, and said failure to mitigate
20 bars Plaintiffs from recovery in this action.

21 WHEREFORE, having fully answered Plaintiffs' Complaint, Defendants request
22 that this matter be dismissed; that Defendants be awarded their costs, including attorneys'
23 fees, incurred herein, and such other relief that this Court deems just and proper.

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DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Defendants hereby demand a jury trial as provided by Rule 38(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

DATED: October 8, 2018

**MANNING & KASS
ELLROD, RAMIREZ, TRESTER LLP**

By: /s/ Gary L. Popham, Jr.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on October 08, 2018, I electronically transmitted the foregoing document to the Clerk of the U.S. District Court's CM/ECF system for filing and transmittal of a Notice of Electronic filing to the following CM/ECF registrants and copies emailed/mailed to:

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